

Check It Out Column for Week of June 14-21

Be Safe this Summer!

By Kathy Stutzman, Community Relations Assistant

Summer is here and that means go to the pool or head to the beach! My grandsons, Nathan and Benjamin, are what I call “water babies”. It doesn’t matter what the temperature of the water, they want to play in it. Last summer, they convinced their grandpa to play in their unheated pool. No way was I going to get into that pool. I had already tested the water and to me it was a “no brainer” decision. I stayed on the side and took pictures. With blue lips and chattering teeth, they wanted to keep playing until Grandpa finally “cried uncle” and said it was “time to get out”.

Water is a huge attraction for children and water safety is critical at this time of year for children of all ages. Toddlers are especially prone to drowning. Their motor skills develop so rapidly that it’s hard to keep track of what they can or can’t do. Suddenly, they can open a door and climb a fence!

Don’t know the basic water safety rules? Warsaw Community Public Library has a number of resources on water safety to keep your children safe. For water fun, attend our **FREE** Water Show at Center Lake on Thursday, June 25 for lots of splishing and splashing. In addition, plan to attend the Northern Indiana Lakes Festival at Center Lake on Saturday, June 27, which will entertain and educate residents and visitors on the subject of water. Don’t forget to visit WCPL’s story time and booth filled with fun, new library books about water at the festival!

In the meantime, plan ahead for a safe and fun summer with these books:

A kid’s guide to staying safe around water: Maribeth Boelts. K-Gr 3--This easy-to-read title presents the basic rules of water safety in a pool, in a lake, and in the ocean. There is instruction on what to do if someone is in trouble in the water--"Reach or throw, don't go."

Water Safety: Peggy Pancella. Learn where to swim, the importance of a buddy system, how to handle trouble in the water and when to get out.

Learn to swim: Rob and Kathy McKay. Progressive, baby-friendly lessons for babies and children from ages 6 months to 4 years.

Visit the Library and check out the rest of our books on water safety and have a safe summer in the water!